

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 AGR-05 /047 W

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R 200913Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5872

USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 0485

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, AF, UR, GW

SUBJECT: KANDAHAR TEXTILE PROJECT

REFS: (A) 75 KABUL 8017 (NOTAL AND PREVIOUS, (B) KABUL 314
(NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. KABUL TIMES OF JANUARY 19 REPORTED THAT AGREEMENT ON KANDAHAR TEXTILE PROJECT WAS SIGNED JANUARY 18 BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) AND USSR/FRG TEAM. M. HASHEM TOUFIQUI, PRESIDENT OF INDUSTRIES, MINISTRY OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES, SIGNED FOR THE GOA; WHILE THE PRESIDENT OF USSR TECHMASH-EXPORT, GARMAZING, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF UNION-MATEX OF THE FRG SIGNED JOINTLY FOR THEIR COMPANIES. THE PAPER NOTES THAT SPINNING AND WEAVING EQUIPMENT WILL BE SUPPLIED BY TECHMASH-EXPORT AND THAT FINISHING EQUIPMENT WILL BE SUPPLIED BY UNION MATEX. (TOTAL COST OF MACHINERY REPORTEDLY OVER \$21 MILLION.) IT ALSO NOTES THAT UNION MATEX WILL CARRY OUT THE INSTALLATION OF THE EQUIPMENT AND WILL SUPERVISE THE CONSTRUCTION WORK. REPORT DOES NOT STATE WHO IS DOING THE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING WORK OR THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION. THE PAPER STATES THAT CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN MARCH, 1976 AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN
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36 MONTHS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. OUR PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDING FROM TOUFIQUI WAS THAT SOVIET EXPERTS WOULD INSTALL THE MACHINERY AND SUPERVISE CONSTRUCTION. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT OUR REPRESENTATIONS HAD SOME EFFECT ON THIS CHANGE, ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE STRICTLY AN INTERNAL GOA DECISION, AS TOUFIQUI HIMSELF HAD EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS WITH A NEW SOVIET PRESENCE IN KANDAHAR. THE STATEMENT THAT UNION MATEX WILL QUOTE SUPERVISE CONSTRUCTION END QUOTE CONFIRMS TOUFIQUI'S STATEMENT TO US THAT CONSTRUCTION HAD BEEN SPLIT OFF FROM THE PACKAGE. HOWEVER, FACT THAT TOUFIQUI IS ONLY NOW TRYING TO NEGOTIATE A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT (REF B) WITH TURNER AND POSSIBLY OTHERS MAKES A MARCH START-UP DATE UNLIKELY. END CONFIDENTIAL.

3. FOR VIENNA. PLEASE PASS SUBSTANCE OF UNCLASSIFIED PORTION OF MESSAGE TO MR. PETER OSTERRICHER, SANFORIZED SERVICES, VINZENZGASSE 13, A-1180, TELEPHONE 47-4494. ELIOT

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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